

**Just the facts:
Holiday Inn North,
Newark, N.J.**

**28th Friends of
Old-Time Radio
Convention**

**October 23-26,
2003 Featuring:
Dragnet &
The Lone Ranger**

Illustration by Dave Warren

—REVISED—

The **2nd Revised** Ultimate History of Network

Radio Programming and Guide to All Circulating Shows

written by Jay Hickerson, October, 2001
Editor of Hello Again

- # 560-page reference book listing over 6000 network, regional, local and syndicated radio programs. (Soft cover and spiral bound). This information was first presented in this combined format in 1992 with separate publications issued in 1986.
- # Traces each program by giving broadcast dates, sponsors, network and air time. Often a brief description with one or two cast members is given. The main purpose, however, is to trace each program by showing when it was on the air.
- # Includes theme music titles if known. Most complete source available.
- # Lists ALL shows available to collectors. Exact dates and sources are mentioned in most cases.

<p><u>INCLUDES ALL INFORMATION TO</u> <u>DATE. INCLUDES FIRST AND SECOND</u> <u>SUPPLEMENT</u></p>

Cost: \$55 plus \$4 postage and handling

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October, 08, 2003

SPECIAL GUESTS

ARTHUR ANDERSON – *Mercury Theater on the Air; Let's Pretend*

GEORGE ANSBRO – (Announcer) ABC

PAUL CARNEGIE – (Sound Effects, Actor) *The Lone Ranger; The Green Hornet*

CLIFF CARPENTER – *County Seat, Prairie Folk*

KATHRYN CROSBY – (Actress, author; widow of Bing Crosby)

FRED FOY – (Announcer) *The Lone Ranger*

DORI ANNE GRAY – Singer "Beginner's Luck"

BOB HASTINGS – *Archie Andrews*; (TV) *McHale's Navy*

RUPERT HOLMES – Singer (Escape); writer, Producer (Remember WENN; Say Goodnight, Gracie)

PAT HOSLEY – *A Brighter Day*

WILL HUTCHINS – (TV) *Blondie*; *Sugarfoot*

ELAINE HYMAN – *The Lone Ranger*

WILL JORDAN – Comedian and Impressionist

TERI KEANE – *Life Can Be Beautiful*

PETER KIEFER – Expert on Fred Waring

RUTH LAST – *Let's Pretend, Quiet Please* (Television, movies, writer)

JIMMY LYDON – *Let's Pretend; Young Love*

BOB MOTT – Sound Effects Artist and Author

CORINNE ORR – *Theater Five; CBS Radio Mystery Theater*; (TV) voices for Speed Racer

BILL OWEN – (Announcer for Mutual)

BETSY PALMER – *CBSRMT*; (TV) *I've Got a Secret*; Movie actress

PAUL PETERSEN – (TV) *Donna Reed Show*; (Singer) "My Dad"

CYNTHIA PEPPER – (TV) *My 3 Sons*

STU PHILLIPS – Arranger, Composer (TV Themes), Record Producer, Conductor

BOBBY RAMSEN – *Let's Pretend* (TV and movie actor; Comedian)

JOYCE RANDOLPH – (TV) *The Jackie Gleason Show*

DIANE RENAY – Singer "Navy Blue"

JAY RENDON – Sound Effects

ROSEMARY RICE – *Archie Andrews; Let's Pretend*; (TV) *I Remember Mama*

LARRY ROBINSON – *Let's Pretend*

LYNNE ROGERS – *The Guiding Light*

SOUPY SALES – Comedian; TV Personality

IRA SKUTCH – Producer and Director of TV Game shows; author

HAL STONE – Jughead in *Archie Andrews*; Author

BEVERLY WASHBURN – Actress; *Jack Benny*

JANET CANTOR GARI – Eddie Cantor's Daughter

BRIAN GARI – Eddie Cantor's grandson

MARLA CANTOR – Daughter of Charlie Cantor

LALIA MADRIGUERA – Singer and daughter of Enric Madriguera, violinist and band leader

AUTHORS

HOWARD BLUE – about WW II

JIM COX – various books

MICHAEL HAYDE – *Dragnet*

MARTIN GRAMS, JR. – various books

GARY YOGGY – Various books

SCHEDULE – 2003

All programs in the Lenox/Tiffany Rooms; All re-creations in the Dresden/Lenox/Tiffany Rooms

Readings, meetings in the Ascot Room

Rehearsals in the Dresden Room (All rehearsals are closed unless specified otherwise)

Dealers in Conference and Waterford Rooms

Wednesday Evening

Complementary Wine and Cheese from 6 pm to 10 pm.

Thursday:

The sound equipment and the stage will be set up. Dealers will be open at 9 am.

9:00 – 5:30	(Dealers)
2:15 – 3:15	Meet Ira Skutch (with Brian Gari)
3:30 – 4:15	Who Wants to be a Millionaire (Mitchell Weisberg)
4:30 – 5:30	Tom Powers reading (The Black Hood)
5:30 – 8:00	Cocktails and Dinner; raffle
8:00 – 8:45	Original re-creation (Maitland at Large) written by Jim Cort; dir. by Arthur Anderson
9:00 – 9:45	Those Were the Days Radio Players present “Life With Luigi”
10:00 – 10:45	“My Friend Irma” (Dir. by Gary Yoggy)

Friday Morning and Afternoon

9:00 – 5:30	(Dealers)
9:00 – 9:45	What’s My Name? (Dave Zwengler)
10:00 – 10:45	A Visit with Stu Phillips and Dori Anne Gray (Hosted by Brian Gari)
11:00 – 11:45	No School Today (Fred Berney)
12:00 – 12:45	San Francisco Detectives (Jack French and Jay Rendon)
1:00 – 2:00	One on One (Mitchell Weisberg and Bob Hastings)
2:15 – 3:15	Dragnet Panel (Michael Hayde, Beverly Washburn)
3:30 – 4:30	Radio Comedians (Derek Tague, Mary Lou Wallace) with guests; Will Jordan, Soupy Sales, Hal Stone, Bobby Ramsen, Bob Hastings
4:45 – 5:30	(Re-creation) Absegami Emanon Players present “ The Shadow ” (Rehearsal 3:00 – 4:30)

Friday Evening

5:30 – 7:45	Cocktails and Dinner, raffle
8:00 – 8:45	(Re-creation) Dragnet ; Dir. by John Gallagher)
9:00 – 9:15	Dave Warren Players (Allen’s Alley)
9:30 – 9:45	The Bickersons with Rosemary Rice and Bob Hastings
10:00 – 10:30	(Re-creation) The Lone Ranger (Dir - A Tollin)

Saturday Morning and Afternoon

- 10:00 – 11:30 Sound Effects (David Shinn and Friends in the Sutton Room)
12:00 – 2:00 Script writing with John Gallagher in the Sutton Room
- 9:00 – 3:00 (Dealers)
9:00 – 9:45 Encoding and Mini Discs (John Gallagher and George Downs)
- 10:00 – 10:45 Fred Waring Panel (Peter Kiefer)
11:00 – 11:45 Lone Ranger Panel (Jim Nixon and Fred Foy)
- 12:00 – 12:45 Re-creation (Gotham Players) **First Nighter Program** "For Pete's
Sake" Prod. by Max Schmid; dir. by Steve Lewis;
1:00 – 2:00 One on One (M Weisberg and Jimmy Lydon)
2:15 – 3:00 WXYZ Panel (A Tollin and Friends)
3:15 – 4:45 Singers, musicians and Big Bands, Part 7 (Stu Weiss, Brian Gari and
Michael Henry) with guests; Paul Petersen, Rupert Holmes, Lalia Madriguera, Diane
Renay, Kathryn Crosby, Quinn Lemley (Rita Hayworth)
5:00 – 5:30 Re-creation: **Backstage Wife** (Dir. by Bill Nadel)

Saturday Evening

- 5:30 – 8:00 Cocktails and Dinner, raffle, awards,
8:00 – 8:45 (Re-creation) **Fibber McGee and Molly** (dir. by A Anderson)
9:00 – 9:30 (Re-creation) **Doc Savage** (Dir by Anthony Tollin)
9:45 – 10:30 (Re-creation) **X – 1** Dir. by Gary Yoggy)

Sunday Morning

- 7:00 – 9:30 Breakfast in the restaurant
9:30 – 11:00 Informal Panel in the Dresden Room

OTHER INFORMATION

Ascot Room will be available much of the time from Thursday through Saturday night. It should be used for interviews, meetings and readings.

1. No smoking in convention area and any other place on main floor. This means NO SMOKING in halls and near registration area.

2. Do not interview in hallways and please do not congest the registration area. Interviews are to be held in the Ascot room mentioned above.

3. Interviews and autographs are NOT to be gotten in the workshop rooms after the workshops. Use Ascot Room. We must get ready for the next workshop.

4. Complimentary coffee and muffins will be available early Thursday – Saturday mornings.

5. All of the sessions are being video recorded by Satellite Media Production. You may order them as a complete set or by individual sessions. Please contact Fred Berney at Satellite Media Production, P.O. Box 638, Walkersville, MD 21793-0638. Phone 800-747-0856. Email: berney@fred.net.

6. You can get information on the Friends of Old-time Radio Convention on our Web Site: FOTR Web site: <http://www.fotr.net>

COMMITTEE AND WORKSHOP LEADERS

GENERAL CHAIRMAN:

PROGRAM AND RE-CREATION DIRECTORS:

Tollin, Gary Yoggy, Bill Nadel, Max Schmid, Steve Lewis, John Gallagher, Randy Larson,

MUSIC COORDINATOR

PUBLICITY: WEB SITE

CONVENTION GUEST COORDINATORS

RIDE COORDINATOR

SOUND ENGINEER

SOUND EFFECTS

Lewis, Bill Nadel, Jay Rendon

Jay Hickerson

Jack French, Arthur Anderson, Anthony

Ed Clute

Sean Dougherty, Charles Summers

Jeff and Walt Muller

Bill Nadel

Bill Siudmak

Bart Curtis, Bob Mott, Anthony Tollin, Steve

ALL OTHERS:

Dave and Susan Siegel

Bob Burchett

Jack French

Derek Tague

Fred Berney

Andy Blatt

Michael Henry

Fred Shay

Lee Munsick

Stu Weiss

Joan Beck

Paul Mellos

Jim Cort

Mary Lou Wallace

Peter Kiefer

Dave Zwengler

Sue Zizza

Karen Hickerson

Alice Anderson

Ken Piletic

Arlene Maher

Mitchell and Eva Weisberg

George Downes

Ron Lackmann

Lora Palmer

Brian Gari

Tom Powers

Harold Zeigler

Michael Hayde

Rick Sapphire

Jim Nixon

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES:

2004 October 21 – 24

REMINISCING

Old-time radio buffs have been honoring the radio stars of yesteryear annually since 1971, when our first old-time radio convention was held. The popularity of the conventions has grown steadily over the past 30 years. The first convention hosted 4 special guests. This year we are honoring over 30 actors, actresses, writers, producers, directors and technicians from the East and West Coasts who made the age of radio a truly golden era. What better way to pay tribute to all our guests than to meet them in person at this, our 25th annual convention of the **FRIENDS OF OLD-TIME RADIO**, and express the enjoyment their performances brought and still bring to us.

The **FRIENDS OF OLD-TIME RADIO, Inc.** is a group of fans and collectors who meet once a year for this non-profit convention. All monies collected are used for hotel, transportation and other convention costs.

The **Allen Rockford Award** was established in 1979 following the death of Allen Rockford at the age of 35 on March 29. Allen was coeditor with Don Richardson of *Nostalgia Radio News*, an excellent monthly OTR publication. The publication started when Allen started his coverage of stations in central New York and Canada carrying Old-time radio. This led to *Nostalgia Radio News*. Allen was active in putting early radio on central New York stations and carried his own show called *Sounds of Yesterday* for several years on WRVO-FM in Oswego. He was an announcer and newscaster for WONO in Syracuse for many years. With Don Richardson, Allen also ran Double-R-Radio, a business specializing in tapes and recordings of old-time radio shows. Allen was an authority on early radio and constantly helped anyone who needed it.

RECIPIENTS ALLEN ROCKFORD AWARD

1979	Ken Piletic	1987	SPERDVAC	1997	Ed Clute
1980	Charles Ingersoll	1988	Barbara Watkins		Michael Sprague
	John Dunning		Barry Hill	1998	Chuck Schaden
1981	Charles Stumpf	1989	Bob Burchett	1999	Charles Summers
1982	Roger Hill		Terry Salomonson	2000	Nana Clute
1983	Ray Stanich	1990	Don Aston		Mary Ramlow
1984	Jim Snyder		Dave Warren		Steve Hiss
	Bob Burnham	1991	Tom Monroe	2001	Steve Lewis
1985	Dick Osgood		Anthony Tollin		Stu Weiss
1986	Frank Bresee	1992	Max Schmid		Michael Henry
1993	Jack French		Gary Yoggy		Derek Tague
	Larry & John Gassman	1994	Bill Bragg	2002	Mitchell Weisberg
1995	Joe Webb		David Siegel		Art Pierce
	Art Schreiber	1996	Bill Nadel		
	Bobb Lynes		Don Ramlow		

FLORENCE WILLIAMS AWARD

1979	Raymond E. Johnson	1985	Ken Ross	1995	Earl George
	Rosa Rio		Terry Ross		Bob Hastings
1980	Bob Prescott Jr.		Mrs. Brace Beemer	1996	Fred Foy
	Pete Prescott		Jay Hickerson		Abby Lewis
1981	Mike Warren	1986	Max Schmid		Sybil Trent
1982	(None)	1987	Sidney Slon	1997	Rosemary Rice
1983	Arthur Anderson		Anthony Tollin		Bob Mott
	Fran Striker Jr.	1988	Bob Steele, Ezra Stone	1998	Dick Beals
1984	Don Richardson	1989	Florence Williams		Ted Reid
	Jackson Beck		Dwight Weist	1999	Pat Hosley
1990	Margot Stevenson		Joe Franklin	2000	Will Hutchins
	George Ansbro	1991	Fran Carlon	2001	Ruth Last
1992	Ken Roberts		Ray Erlenborn	2002	Bill Owen
	Peg Lynch		Barney Beck		
1993	Lon Clark	1994	Bob Dryden		
	Adele Ronson		Arthur Tracy		

RAY STANICH AWARD

John Dunning; Frank Buxton; Bill Owen; Ron Lackmann; Martin Grams, Jr.; Gary Yoggy, Anthony Tollin, Jim Cox

DONATIONS OVER THE YEARS

Frank Nelson Scholarship Fund
Veteran's Bedside Network
Thousand Oaks Library
Episcopal Actor's Guild
Kate Smith Foundation
Broadcast Pioneers Library
WBAI
Museum of Television and Radio
Society of Broadcast Engineers

Society for Singers
Stephanie Joyce Kahn Foundation
The Actor's Fund
Billy Rose Collection, N Y Public Library
Heller Memorial Foundation of AFTRA
Yesterday USA
Old-time Radio Digest (Internet)
American Red Cross

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

2002

The Friends of Old-time Radio held its 27th Annual Convention from October 24 – 27, 2002 at the Holiday Inn – North, Newark, New Jersey. Celebrities who received awards were: **Robert Clary, Tommy Cook, Bill Farrell, Beverly Garland, Kathy Garver, Gogi Grant, Bill and Susan Hayes, Cynthia Pepper, Bea Wain, Johnny Blowers, Soupy Sales**. Other celebrities present were **Arthur Anderson, George Ansbros, Frank Bresee, Cliff Carpenter, Phyllis Creore, Mary Diveny, Pat Hosley, Will Hutchins, Teri Keane, Ruth Last, Bob Mott, Bill Owen, Rosemary Rice, Hal Stone**. The guests socialized with fans, participated in panels and workshops and re-created 9 radio shows.

The convention began Wednesday Evening with complementary Wine and Cheese and informal visiting. Thursday Morning the dealers opened at 9 am. There were six afternoon panels: **Dave Zwengler** with **Randy Larson** was interviewed as Archie from Duffy's Tavern; **Fred Berney** talked about collecting, tape recording and mini discs; **Howard Blue** discussed his new book, Radio and World War II; **Gary Yoggy** then told the audience of the 10 worst shows; **Jack French** gave a panel on Breakfast Couples; Finally a tribute was given to **Dave Warren** for whom this convention was dedicated; on the panel were Gary Yoggy, **Derek Tague**, **Bobb Lynes**, **Barbara Watkins**, **Bob Burchett**, **Jack French** with additional comments provided by **Charlie Stumpf** and (via a fax) **SuzAnne Barabas**. We then had cocktails and dinner. 79 fans attended during the day. 150 fans and guests attended in the evening. **Arthur Anderson** directed **Becky Beach's** and **John Bell's** parody of War of the worlds. "Those Were the Days Players" presented "The Hall of Fantasy"; Finally **Various guests** performed on a Variety Show directed by **Dave Zwengler**.

Friday began at 9:00 with the opening of the dealers room. fifty-five dealer tables were active during the convention. 225 people attended dinner with another 122 in the afternoon. Workshops and panels included the following: **Dave Zwengler** (quiz show); **Dick Brescia** (OTR today); **Mitchell Weisberg** went one on one with **Beverly Garland**; **Gary Yoggy** with **Ed Clute** and **Phyllis Creore** talked about AFRS; **Anthony Tollin** and **Martin Grams, Jr.** talked about Have Gun, Will Travel; then **Anthony Tollin** with **Laura Leff** and **Johnny Blowers** talked about Jack Benny; **Rick Sapphire** had several of the child stars who were present in a panel; then the **Gotham Radio Players** presented **Light's Out** episode of "Chicken Heart."

On Friday evening we had 3 re-creations: **Voyage of the Scarlet Queen** directed by **Jack French**; **Tommy Cook** starred in an Arch Oboler production of Paul Revere's; **Arthur Anderson** directed an episode of **Lawyer Tucker**.

Saturday the panels and workshops included the following: Blindness and Radio with **Derek Tague**, **Lora Palmer**, **Ed Clute**, **Mike Mandel**, **July Wilkinson**, and **Kathy Garver** who reads for the blind in California; **Mitchell Weisberg** gave another one on one with **Hal Stone**; **Bob Van Deventer** talked about his father's program, 20 Questions; **The Living Audio Rep, Co.** presented "It's Boys, Is It" by **Isobel Clowes**; then there was a **Hedda Hopper** panel with **Jack French** and **Robert Furry**, **Hedda Hopper's** nephew; Then followed an **Ellery Queen** Panel with **Bill Nadel**, **Francis Nevins**, **Bill Owen** and **Martin Grams' Jr.**; The **Singers/Musicians** panel hosted by **Stu Weiss** and **Michael Henry** was a hit again; The panel consisted of **Bea Wain**, **Robert Clary**, **Gogi Grant**, **Johnny Blowers**, **Bill Hayes**, **Bill Farrell**, **Soupy Sales**. It ended with a sing-a-long.

Saturday's events culminated with cocktails and buffet dinner for 264 people with another 129 coming for the day. After dinner **Gary Yoggy** directed **Nero Wolfe** with **Tommy Cook**, **Bill Hayes**, **Hal Stone**, **Gary Yoggy**; **Jack Lawrence**, composer and lyricist (**Linda**, **Tenderly**, **Beyond the Sea**), a last minute guest, sang **Linda** and a new song he recently wrote, (**In Praise of Older Women**). Others of the singers panel also sang; **Anthony Tollin** directed **Have Gun, Will Travel**; **Ed Clute** supplied the music for this and other re-creations. **Bart Curtis** with **Bob Mott** supplied the sound effects.

Besides the awards mentioned earlier, the **Allen Rockford Award** was presented to **Art Pierce** and **Mitchell Weisberg** for their outstanding efforts in keeping radio and this convention alive. The **Ray Stanich Award** was given to **Jim Cox** for all the excellent writing he has done. I was then awarded a special **Ray Stanich Award** for my work. It was a surprise award Thank you very much. A special **Florence Williams** award was given to **Bill Owen**. He has attended our convention for several years and have always been willing to help. **Janet Cantor Gari** also received a special award presented by her son, **Brian Gari**. Donations will be given to various organizations throughout the year.

Sunday morning found about 120 people having breakfast and listening to an entertaining and sometimes very hilarious panel consisting of **Cliff Carpenter**, **Bill Farrell**, **Gogi Grant**, **Robert Clary**, **Hal Stone**, **Susan** and **Bill Hayes**. It was hosted by **Anthony Tollin**.

I again want to thank all the guests who were very gracious in granting interviews and giving of their time to be with us.

GUEST BIOS
prepared by Gary Yoggy
from available information

KATHRYN CROSBY

Multi-talented **Kathryn Grant Crosby** was born in Texas and earned a B.F.A. from the University of Texas, and an R.N. degree from the Queen of Angels School of Nursing in Los Angeles. Fluent in German, French, Spanish and Russian, she is a frequent contributor to both magazines and newspapers.

Crosby began her acting career at age three in "Toymaker's Dream," and at 14 appeared in "Henry's Hired Aunt," and "Mama's Boy." Her many stage roles include Margaret in "Dear Brutus," Hero in "Much Ado About Nothing," Cordelia in "King Lear," and Liza in "Pygmalion." She has performed in the title roles in "Sabrina," "Peter Pan," "Mary, Mary," "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie," "Same Time, Next Year," "Guys and Dolls," "I Do, I Do," "Arms and the Man," "The Guardsman," "Oh Coward," "State Fair," and "The Seagull." Her film roles include *Operation Mad Ball* with Ernie Kovacs and *Anatomy of a Murder* with James Stewart

Kathryn Crosby was married to Bing Crosby from 1957 until his death in 1977. She appeared on many of her husband's Christmas Specials as well as on her own "Kathryn Crosby Show." She is the author of two books *Bing and Other Things* and *My Life with Bing*, and hosts the annual Crosby Golf Tournament in Winston-Salem, NC.

DORI ANNE GRAY

Dori Anne Gray started singing at the ripe old age of five at a summer resort in the Catskill Mountains of New York State, in a kiddie show, while vacationing with her parents. The tot stole the show, and many people who were part of the audience approached Dori Anne's parents and suggested that the little girl be given vocal coaching since they felt she had star-potential. However, her parents declined to do so until Dori Anne was old enough to make her own decision in regard to studying for a singing career.

So, Dori Anne started studying at the age of eight while attending P.S. 64 in the Bronx. By the time she was in Junior High School, she was starring in all of the school's productions and was voted "Miss Songbird of Junior High School 22."

It was in October of 1954, while Dori Anne was a senior at Taft High School, that she and her Mom decided it was time they started thinking on a professional-level and walked into Hugo & Luigi's office at Mercury Records in New York, with a demonstration record tucked under Dori Anne's hopeful arm. The A & R team played the record, and when it was over, asked Dori Anne to sing a song "a cappella." A week later, Dori Anne Gray was signed to a Mercury recording contract.

RUPERT HOLMES

Rupert Holmes was born in England because of his father's involvement in USAF. After the family moved to New York, Rupert developed an interest in music. He attended the Manhattan School of Music. It was after graduation that he seriously began as a songwriter successful piano player, he played with the Cuff Links and the Buoys in the 70s. As an arranger and songwriter, he composed songs for Gene Pitney, the Platters, the Drifters and the Partridge Family. At the age of 24, Rupert had a hit on both the American and UK charts. "Timothy" was his first hit in 1971.

After this first hit, Rupert decided on pursuing a singing career of his own. He released his first album, "Widescreen," in 1974. He then produced albums for such singing legends as Barbra Streisand, Sparks and Sailors, A booming career was underway. He released several more albums in the 70s including "Rupert Holmes: The Singles" and "Pursuit of Happiness."

The 80s took Rupert into a new realm of success, Although known as a singer and songwriter, he made international fame with "Escape (The Pina Colada Song)" and "Him" which placed on both the UK and American charts. It only added to the success of the albums "Partners in Crime," "Adventure" and "Full Circle."

Rupert Holmes is also an accomplished playwright. His 1986 Broadway musical, "The Mystery of Edwin Drood," was the recipient of five Tony Awards. The awards include Best Musical, under the production of Joseph Papp, Best Actor in a Musical, awarded to George Rose and Best Direction of a Musical, by director Wilford Leach. The best Book of a Musical Award and the Original Score Award were given to Rupert Holmes. He also created "Remember WENN." for American Movie Classics. The show centered around a radio station in Pittsburg in 1939. Rupert has collected more than 3,000 radio programs and the show took audiences back to the days when radio broadcasting began. Guest stars included Molly Ringwald and Patti LuPone. Last year (2002), Rupert penned "Say Goodnight Gracie," a tribute to George Burns and Gracie Allen which played on Broadway for nearly a year starring Frank Gorshin. Another Broadway musical is also in the works, "The Picture of Dorian Gray," based on the Oscar Wilde book of the same name.

JIMMY LYDON

To help support his large family, American actor **Jimmy Lydon** was forced along with his eight siblings to seek out work at an early age. At that time the only way for a child to break into radio in New York was to work for Nila Mack on "Let's Pretend." Next came "Believe It or Not" and a running role on the soap "Pretty Kitty Kelly" 1938-39. Then Lydon left for Hollywood. There radio work was sparse because the studios didn't allow children to do radio and he was under contract to RKO, Paramount, Columbia, Warner Bros and PRC. He did do a few "Lux Radio Theatre's" for Cecil B. DeMille and "Young Love" with Janet Waldo. The boy began picking up acting jobs, appearing in such plays as "Western Waters" and "The Happiest Days." Lydon's first film was Back Door to Heaven, after which he appeared as the title character of Tom Brown's School Days (1940). The essential seriousness with which he tackled his work may have

stemmed from Lydon's dislike of the demeaning audition process and the callous manner in which child actors were treated by many adult directors. When Jackie Cooper balked at continuing the role of Henry Aldrich in the series of Paramount B-pictures, Lydon was assigned to the part, ultimately appearing in nine Henry Aldrich films. The adenoidal, trouble-prone Henry was a hard image for Lydon to shake, but he did his best with polished performances in such films as Strange Illusion (1945) (a bizarre "B"-film based on *Hamlet*), and Life With Father (1947), in which Lydon was paired with Elizabeth Taylor.

Finding film work sparse in the '50s, Lydon began doing commercial voiceovers and acting in television: he played a newlywed in the 1952 daytime serial "The First Hundred Years, a benign space alien on the syndicated 1953 sci-fier "Rocky Jones: Space Ranger," an actor's agent on "So This is Hollywood" (1955), and Anne Jeffrey's secretary in the 1958 sitcom "Love That Jill." From 1956 onward, Lydon, wearying of the headaches and heartaches of an acting career (though he'd still accept a part if he liked it), began training for production work behind the cameras. He worked on the producer's staff of such series as "Wagon Train" and "77 Sunset Strip," and on occasion (notably the 1965 TV version of "Mister Roberts") directed as well as produced. Lydon also functioned as producer on several films, such as the Sean Connery vehicle Chubasco (1968.) Lydon, still smarting from losing out on a normal childhood, actively discouraged his children from entering show business— at least until they were grown up.

BETSY PALMER

Betsy Palmer is probably best known for playing Jason Voorhees mother in Friday the 13th, but her career as an actress began many years before. Palmer was encouraged to play a young female officer co-starring with Jack Lemmon in Mister Roberts (1955) and in another war film the same year The Long Gray Line (1955). Throughout the late fifties, Palmer was a news reporter on "The Today Show on NBC." Then she became involved in television in Made-for-TV films and made notable guest appearances until appearing in the 1980 hit horror film, Friday the 13th (1980). Her most recent film was Fear 2: Resurrection but it didn't make much impact. Palmer today often spends her time at her home in Indiana. She was offered the role of Jason Voorhees' mother in Jason X this year, but she turned it down and told them to use her original footage from Friday the 13th. She is also well known as a panelist on TV's "I've Got A Secret" from 1957-67.

PAUL PETERSEN

A good chunk of America watched **Paul Petersen** grow up on "The Donna Reed Show" from age 12 to 20 (1958-1966) on ABC playing Donna's feisty son, Jeff Stone. Along with his television sister, Shelley Fabares, he became the dreaded Bubble gum Star... complete with hit records, fast cars and faster women. Among Paul's recordings were such albums as "Lollipops and Roses," "Bye Bye Birdie" (with James Darren and Shelley Fabares), "My Dad," "Teenage Triangle" (With James Darren and Shelley Fabares) and "More Teenage Triangle" (with James Darren and Shelley Fabares. His singles included "My Dad" b/w "Little Boy Sad," "Amy" b/w "Goody-Goody," "Girls in the Summertime" b/w "Mamma, Your Little Boy Fell," "Keep Your Love Locked" b/w "What Did They Do Before Rock 'N Roll," "Cheerleader" b.w "She Rides

With Me,” “Hey There Beautiful” b/w “Where is She?,” and “Chained” b/w “Don’t Let It Happen To Us.”

He worked quite a bit before the “Donna Reed Show” on classics like “Playhouse 90,” “Ford Theater” and “Lux Video Theater,” and he did his share of movies including *Houseboat* with Cary Grant and Sophia Loren. After “Donna Reed” he worked in a string of movies and television shows (“Journey to Shiloh,” “Time for Killing,” “The FBI,” “Matt Houston,” etc.), but year by year the work dwindled until, by 1969, there was no work at all. By his own admission, he made some terrible choices in his 20’s, drugs, alcohol, bad people and worse associations. Mickey Rooney advised him to “get out of town for at least twenty-five years,” and he did so. Putting himself back together was an arduous process, but finding a new home and new friends in Connecticut made it possible. By 1972 he was published by Simon & Schuster and 16 books later, considers himself an author. He is an advocate for necessary change in the way this country treats young professionals. His business card reads, “Actor, Author, Advocate.”

“A Minor Consideration” is a group of some 600 former kid stars who have decided to tell the truth and take care of their own. Everybody in AMC is in “*Trivial Pursuit*.” Their organization began with the death of Rusty Hammer (“The Danny Thomas Show”) in January of 1990, starting with just Paul and his 3rd wife, Rana Platz-Petersen, RN who is the current Business Representative of Local 767, IATSE, Studio First Aid.

He has three children, Brian Andrew Petersen, currently in the Navy, Ethan Alexander Petersen, a graduate of CSUN, and Shannon Kimberly Petersen, age 15. None are professional kid actors. Most former kid stars would never put their own kids into the business, he points out.

He serves on the California Governor’s Committee for the Disabled, the Young Performers Committee at Screen Actors Guild. He is the National Co-Chair of the AFTRA Young Performers Committee, and a national Board member of the American Foundation for Drug Prevention, in addition to the National Drug Prevention League. Those who achieve fame at an early age, suffer three times the national average when it comes to substance abuse.

The Donna Reed foundation’s annual Festival has grown from forty people to an event that draws thousands of guests, hundreds of workshop participants, and contestants from all over the world who seek one of the four \$10,000 Donna Reed Scholarships in the Performing Arts. It is held in Donna Reed’s hometown of Dennison, Iowa every third week in June, and Paul is on the Board of Directors.

In 1997 “A Minor Consideration” saw the passage of two laws which are a start on correcting the many troubles facing professional children. They defeated California’s attempt to lower the standards of studio teachers, and helped create the first-ever child labor laws in the entertainment industry in British Columbia. They have targeted the exemption from federal child labor laws as their next endeavor, and they are fighting to bring national standards to the child’s work place. Thirty-seven states have no child labor laws for the entertainment industry, and those which do have laws rarely enforce them.

STU PHILLIPS

Stu Phillips has had a long, varied and successful career in the field of music. Stu has gone from playing piano in cocktail lounges to conducting the Los Angeles Philharmonic. In a successful A&R record producer, and as a composer for television and theatrical movies. He studied music at the High School of Music & Art in New York City, and at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. His first professional job was as a copyist for the Milton Berle Texaco Hour. At Eastman he wrote arrangement of pop tunes for the Rochester Civic Orchestra. Among some of the artists he accompanied and was musical director for were Jimmie Rodgers and Chris Connor. Stu produced and received gold records for "Blue Moon," with the Marcells. "Johnny Angel," with Shelley Fabares, and "Goodbye Cruel World" with James Darren. Among a few of the other artists he produced while at Colpix Records were Nina Simone; Vince Edwards; The Chad Mitchell Trio; The Skyliners and Jimmy Beaumont; and the Ronettes and Phil Spector.

At Capitol Records Stu was the creator, producer and arranger of the Hollyridge Strings, which at one time had three albums in the top 20 of the Billboard Chart. In all, he recorded a total of 12 albums. While head of West Coast A&R for Epic records, Stu recorded the Doodletown Pipers as well as Nancy Ames, Enzo Stuarti and Bob Crane. During the course of his record career (from 1959 to 1968), Stu also worked as a composer for "The Donna Reed Show," "Gidget" and "The Monkees." Also during the 1960s and the early 70s, he composed the music for approximately 15 feature films including, Hells Angels on Wheels; Beyond the Valley of the Dolls; Macon County Line; Ride the Wild Surf and many others. Some of the artists who have recorded songs written by Stu and various co-writers are Tammy Wynette; B.B. King; George Hamilton; Dino; Desi & Billy; The Sandpipers and Lynn Carey.

In 1974, Stu began a seven-year undertaking at Universal Studios composing the music for "The Six Million Dollar Man" pilot. It was followed by "McCloud;" "Quincy;" "Switch;" "The Hardy Boys & Nancy Drew;" "Battlestar Galactica;" "Buck Rogers;" "Knight Rider" and others. When Glen Larson left Universal for 20th Century Fox. Stu accompanied him. At Fox he scored 96 episodes of "The Fall Guy," as well as "Masquerade," "Automan" and "The Highwayman." Among some of his other TV credits are "Spiderman;" "Chicago Story" and "Along Came Bronson." He has been nominated for four Grammys and is currently a member of the Motion Picture Academy (AMPAS). The Television Academy (ATAS), and the Record Academy (NARAS).

BOBBY RAMSEN

Brought up in Yonkers, NY, **Bobby Ramsen** attended school there before breaking into show business while still in his teens. Starting as a radio actor, Bobby's first "role" was playing a mosquito in a sketch on WOR's "Rainbow House." In a short time he was playing juvenile parts on such radio serials as "Dick Tracy," "Let's Pretend," "Front Page Farrell" and "Terry and the Pirates." At age fourteen he made his Broadway debut in a play titled "Career Angel."

Bobby's decision to become a stand-up comedian was no surprise to his family and friends. For years he had been demonstrating a flair for making people laugh. With new and refreshing comedy routines, an authoritative stage presence Ramsen became a favorite at the night spots around New York. His sterling performances at the Copacabana and Latin Quarter earned him bookings in Las Vegas, Lake Tahoe and Atlantic City. Bobby has traveled though out the country sharing billing with such stars as Tom Jones, Englebert Humperdinck and Diana Ross. Bobby has appeared on all the important talk shows and has attracted the attention of such influential chronicles as *The New York Times*, *TIME*, *Life Magazine* and *Reader's Digest*, all of which gave him rave reviews.

Ramsen's acting ability took him to Hollywood. He has been seen in 10 feature motion pictures and over 75 television programs. A short list of Bobby's Movie/TV credits include: "The Nanny," "The Bob Newhart Show," "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," "T.J. Hooker," "Alice," "Once Bitten," "It's Alice," "Return to Salem's Lot" and many, many more.

In all **Bobby Ramsen** is a performer of originality, great appeal and a man whom *Variety* has called "a comedian with an hilarious repertoire, chock-full of sure fire material."

JOYCE RANDOLPH

Joyce Randolph was born Joyce Sirola in Detroit, Michigan in 1925. She was only nineteen when she joined a road company of "Stage Door." From there she went to New York and a revival of "Abie's Irish Rose," and later, a Broadway run of "A Goose for the Gander" with Gloria Swanson. Although she continued to appear in Broadway musicals through the 1940's and into the 1950s, she became increasingly active in early TV, appearing with such superstars as Eddie Cantor, Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis, Danny Thomas, and Fred Allen. From appearances on General Electric's early experimental television programs, she went on to roles on "Four Star Revue" and "Colgate Comedy Hour." Even before "The Honeymooners," Joyce Randolph worked with Adurey Meadows in a summer-stock production of "No, No, Nanette." She first worked with Jackie Gleason on "Cavalcade of Stars" in a serious role, and was later called back to play Trixie Norton – a role which she continued to play until "Honeymooners" left New York. In 1993, Mrs. Randolph was named U.S.O. Woman of the Year for her dedication to the organization and its cause.

DIANE RENAY

Diane Renay, most notably famous for her 1964 Hit Recording, "Navy Blue" was born Renee Diane Kushner in South Philadelphia, PA. (Many other famous recording stars such as, Bobby Rydell, Fabian, Frankie Avalon, Dee Dee Sharp, and Chubby Checker just to name a few, also hailed from the South Philadelphia area!)

As soon as Diane started talking, she started singing along with any song she would hear on the radio or record player that was playing in her parents home. By the time she was 12 years old, she started taking voice lessons with a well known vocal teacher/coach in Philadelphia, by the name of Artie Singer.

When Diane was 14, she entered into a recording studio, and with the assistance of 4 Boys (who were her friends and with whom she often sang), she recorded several songs. Her favorite cut was "Zing Went the Strings of My Heart!"

Diane's parents had a well known and successful jewelry business in center city Philadelphia, and one of their very good customer's was the cousin of a very successful record producer/song writer named Pete De Angelis, who worked with Frankie Avalon, Al Martino, and many other successful recording artists. At the request of Diane's father, he asked his good customer if he could arrange for a meeting, whereby Diane would meet with record producer/song writer Pete De Angelis and sing for him, so that he could give Diane's parents his honest opinion, as to whether or not he thought that she had the vocal talent to pursue a recording career.

Pete De Angelis was able to obtain a recording contract for Diane Renay with the Atco Record Company. He produced her very first professional recording session, for which he wrote several songs that she recorded in addition to recording a well known standard song titled "Little White Lies." It was Diane's first record release in 1962. She was only 16 years old at the time. For her second Atco recording session, the president of Atco Records, Jerry Wexler, decided to call in one of the best and hottest record producers at the time, Bob Crewe to write material and produce Diane's next session. That session resulted in her second single release "Tender."

Later , Bob Crewe personally signed her on as one of his recording artists. He both wrote songs and produced for her. The rest is history. The very first recording session that Bob Crewe produced and wrote songs for Diane Renay to sing, resulted in the production and release of "Navy Blue!" The song hit the Top 10 Billboard Chart with a Red Bullet in the week of February 19th, 1964. Diane Renay was not yet 18 years old and was still in high school. Shortly thereafter, followed an album release also titled "Navy Blue" which included Diane Renay's fourth single release titled "Kiss Me Sailor." It did well on the Billboard Chart, but could not top the success of "Navy Blue." Although Diane never had another hit as major as "Navy Blue" again, she continued to record many other single releases, such as "Growin' Up Too Fast," "Happy Birthday Broken Heart," and the tough girl punk classic "Watch Out Sally!"

Diane Renay was a part of the Girl Group Phenomenon of Pop Music in the early 60's, when Rock n' Roll was still in it's infancy.

JULIAN "JAY" RENDON

In 1944, a nineteen year old lad in San Francisco, **Julian "Jay" Rendon**, got his first job in radio as part of the guest relations staff at the NBC affiliate in the Bay City. He had intentions of becoming an announcer, but when he qualified for a soundman's spot in 1946, he was delighted. Not only did it raise his monthly salary from \$195 to \$235, but he also joined the talented sound

effects of Lloyd Creekmore and Bill Brownell. The three did numerous shows with OTR stars who did some specials in San Francisco, including Eddie Cantor, Bing Crosby, and Jack Benny. In addition, Jay got to work with local personalities, who hosted network specials, including George Fenneman. Jay also was assigned to the popular kids' show, "Jolly Bill & Jane." But the most generous income for Jay came from doing sound effects for commercials; a two-day job on a Gallo Wine commercial netted him as much as his entire monthly NBC salary. In June 1949, "Candy Matson, YU2-8209" debuted, created by Monty Masters and starring his wife, Natalie. Approximately 90 weekly episodes of this lady detective show aired on NBC until May 1951 and Bill Brownell and/or Jay Rendon did the sound effects on every show.

LYNNE ROGERS

Lynne Rogers, co-author of *How To Be A Working Actor*, the best-selling book on the business of acting, became a familiar face to TV viewers during her many years as a leading lady on CBS' "Guiding Light." She subsequently played an ailing heroine on NBC's "The Doctors" and went on to appear on just about every TV show emanating from New York.

The "voice" of countless nationally advertised products, she was Procter and Gamble's first product spokeswomen, appearing on radio and TV talk shows across the country. As producer of videotapes for the Readers' Digest Association she was responsible for adapting the material in their How-To Books into instructional videos – which became the best sellers in their category.

Her first book, *The Love of Their Lives*, told the behind-the-scenes story of soap opera through interviews with the leading players. She has written, for *American Heritage*, the turbulent story of the founding of Actor's Equity Association.

Her book, *Working in Show Business: Behind the Scenes Careers in Theater, Film and Television*, has been a text at schools and colleges across the country as well as a selection of the Performing Arts Book Club.

A native New Yorker, Lynne is a graduate, magna cum laude, of Queens College, and wrote and produced her own radio show while an undergraduate there. She attended Yale Drama School, won the lead in a radio soap opera, toured the country in a slew of summer packages, and has appeared on Broadway and in a number of films.

Elected to the board of the League of Professional Theatre Women, she served for many years on the national and local boards of the American Federation of Radio and Television Artists (AFTRA), as well as the Board of Governors of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, where she was awarded their Medal for Distinguished Service.

IRA SKUTCH

After graduating from Dartmouth College in 1941, **Ira Skutch** spent a year working with producer Alex Cohen on the production of "Angel Street," in which he also simultaneously made his debut and farewell Broadway appearance in the role of a non-speaking English Bobby. In the spring of 1942, he switched to radio as an NBC page. As the war drafted personnel, he rapidly rose through the ranks of the Guest Relations Department becoming supervisor of the set-up staff and then assistant manager in charge of the guided tour. When World War II wound down, he transferred to the embryonic television department as a stage manager. By 1948, he was directing and producing four programs a week. Starting out freelance, he became the commercial producer-director-writer for the "Philco Television Playhouse" as well as all other Philco programs. In 1954, Lennen & Newell, a Madison Avenue ad agency, hired him as a producer-director. In 1957, he escaped the clutches of the ad world by joining Goodson-Todman Productions where he served as producer-director and vice president until 1983, logging over 10,000 episodes of such shows as "Match Game," "I've Got a Secret," "Password" and "Concentration." He has since learned that there is life after game shows, co-producing A.R. Gurney's "The Middle Ages" at the Westwood Playhouse; writing a memoir, *I Remember Television*, published by Scarecrow Press; and editing other books for the Directors Guild of America. His novel, *Making It*, was published in 2000 by Malvern Publishing. *Counterpoint—The Journey of a Music Man*, written with Joe Harnell, was published by Xlibris.com in 2001. *The Dumont Television Network: What Happened*, written with Ted Bergmann, was published by Scarecrow Press in 2002.

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MEMORIES OF BOB HOPE
by Frank Bresee

One of the greatest comedians of our time was Bob Hope.

I first met Hope in 1950 and was fortunate to have the opportunity to travel with him around the country when he did his "Chesterfield Cigarette Radio Show" on N-B-C.

I remember one occasion when Hope had a national contest in which the winner would be allowed to have the premiere of Hope's latest picture "My Favorite Spy" held in the living room of their home. (Note: "My Favorite Spy" is available on video tape and DVD).

The winner of the contest lived in Bel-Air, Ohio with her husband, and in November 1950 the Hope radio gang: Jerry Colonna, Marilyn Maxwell, Hy Averbach and Les Brown and his orchestra, plus the NBC Crew flew to Ohio for the premiere and the regular Tuesday night radio show.

Traveling with Bob Hope was like being in New Orleans at Mardi Gras time. It was a whirlwind of activity from early in the morning to the wee small hours, and Hope kept up this pace for over fifty years, from the time he began this Pepsodent show in 1938, through the war years, until sometime in the early

When the Armed Forces Radio Service "Command Performance" show went on the air in 1942, Hope was one of the first comedians to appear, and for many years acted as host and emcee on the show more than any other entertainer.

"Command Performance" was on the air until December 1949, and was one of the most popular programs on AFRS.

In 1977, which would have been the 35th Anniversary of the program, I was asked to write and produce a one hour special "CP", commemorating the occasion.

My choice for the host was, of course, Bob Hope.

He complied, laughing and clowning as he had done so many times on past "Command Performance" programs.

The original announcer of "CP" Ken Carpenter, also joined the program as he had done on so many of the original shows.

Bob Hope will always have my vote as the greatest comedian and humanitarian I have ever known.

Bob, Thanks For The Memories!

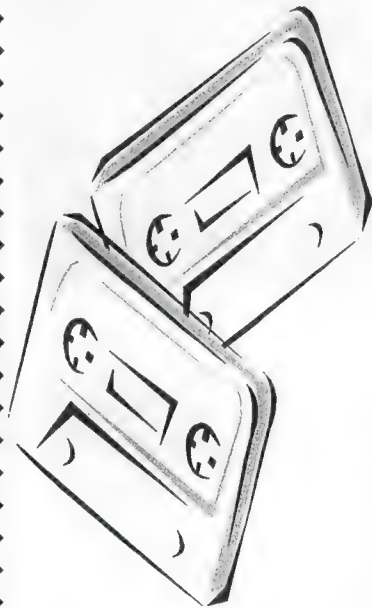


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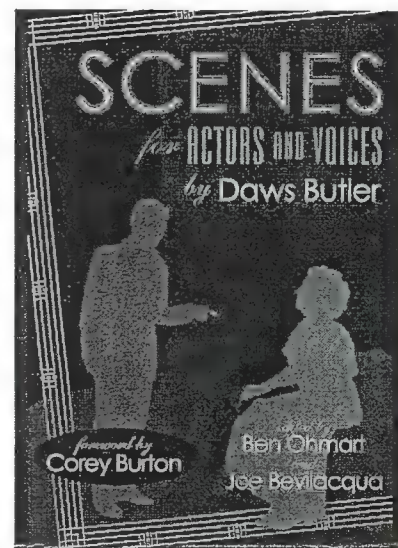
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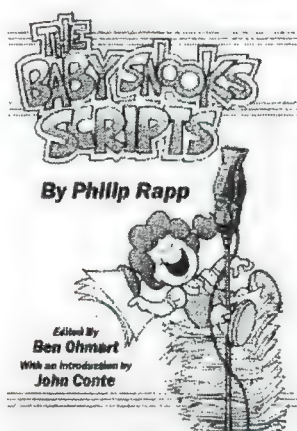
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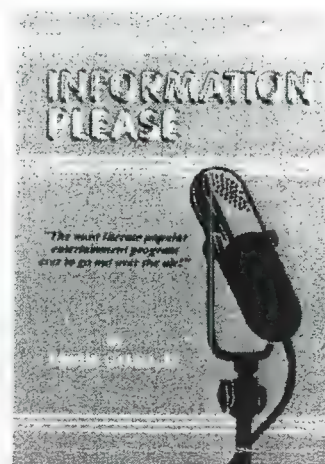
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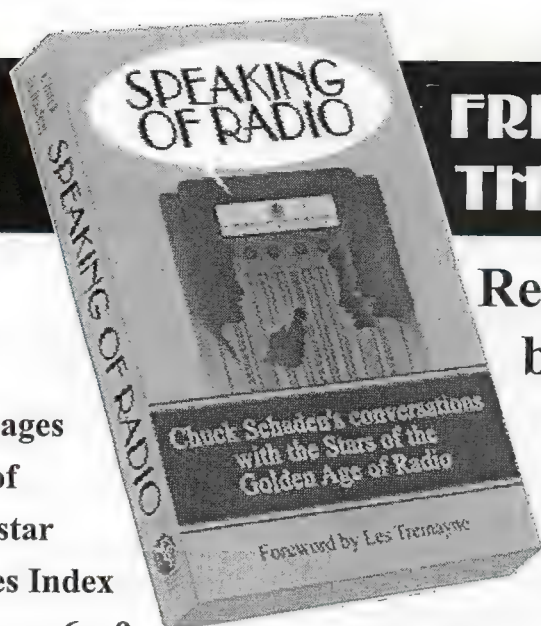
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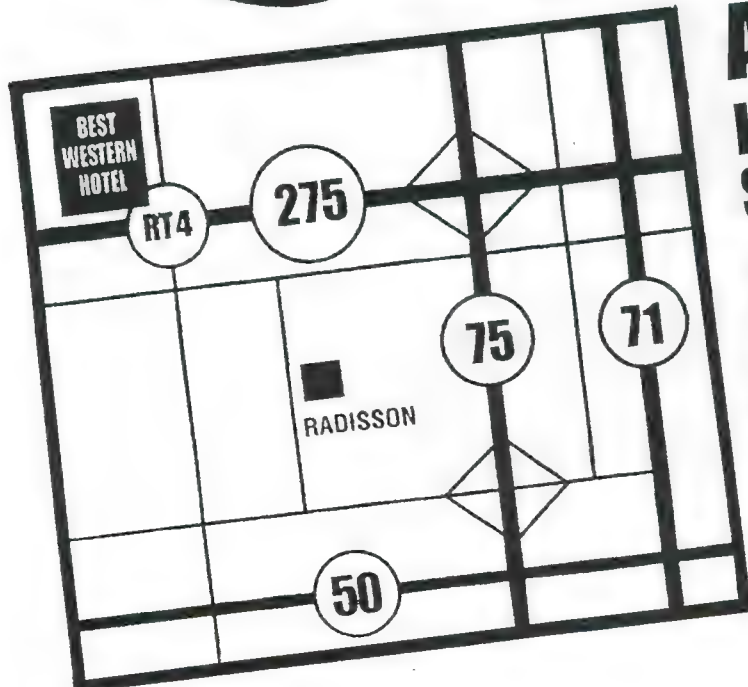
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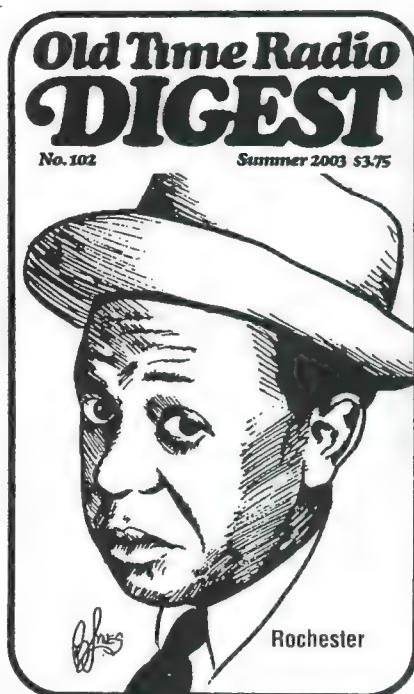


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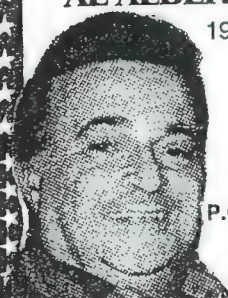
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A Great Big "Thank You"
to Mrs. Mary Healy for
helping us, finally, obtain
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of our *FOUR ACES* from her
CBS TV Show, Jan. 1952!

Peter Lind Hayes and his wife, Mary Healy, in "Star of the Family."
PHOTO: STEVE AMES ARCHIVES



Paul Petersen

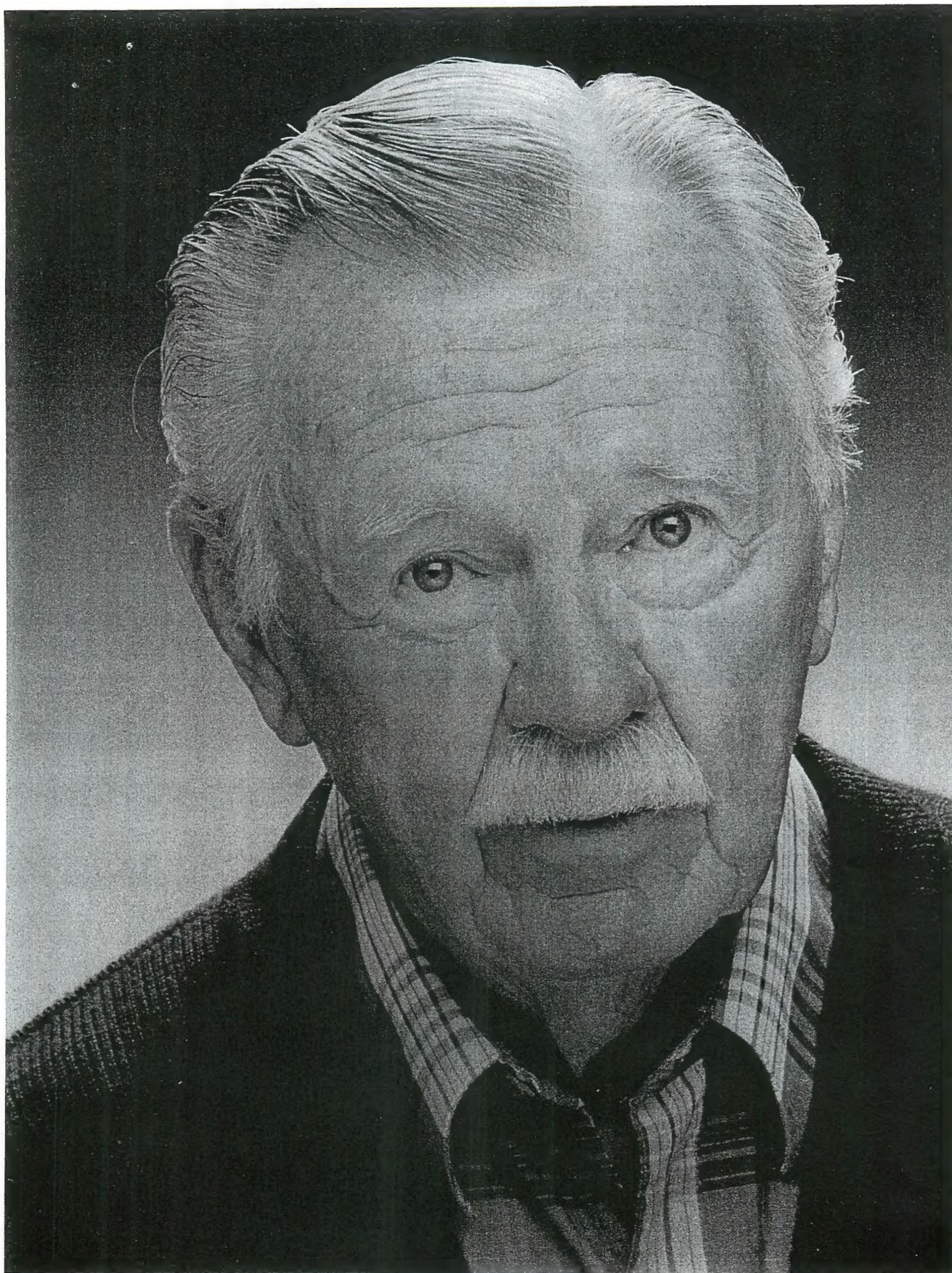


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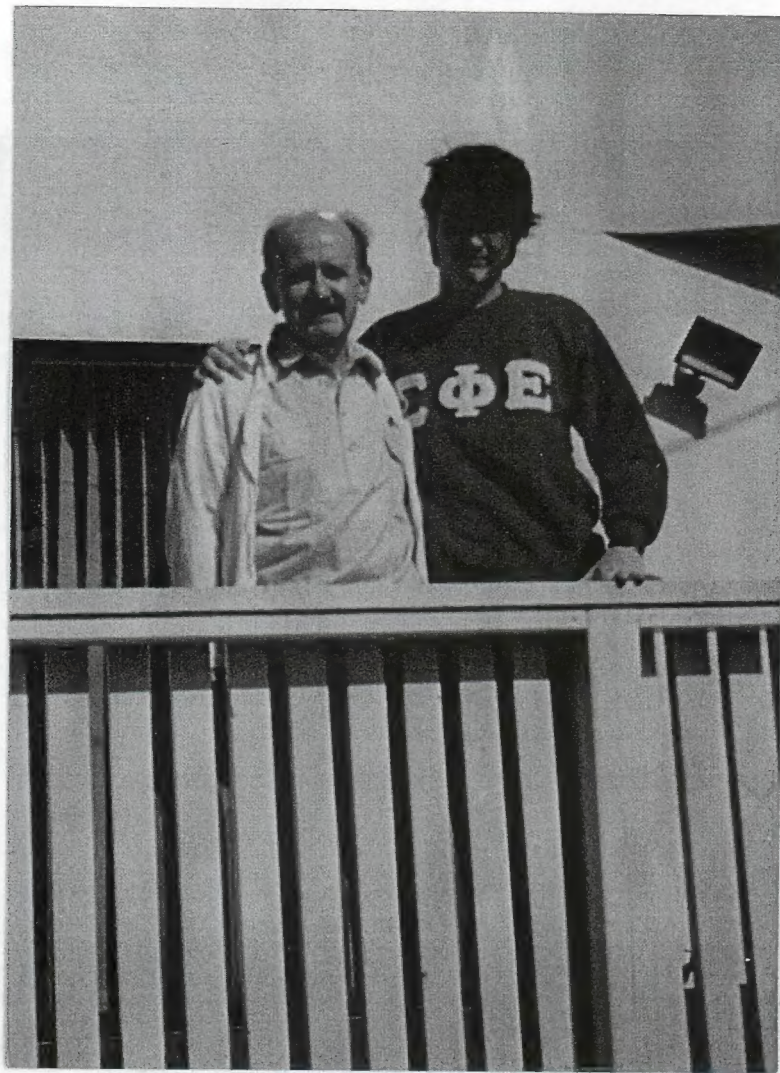
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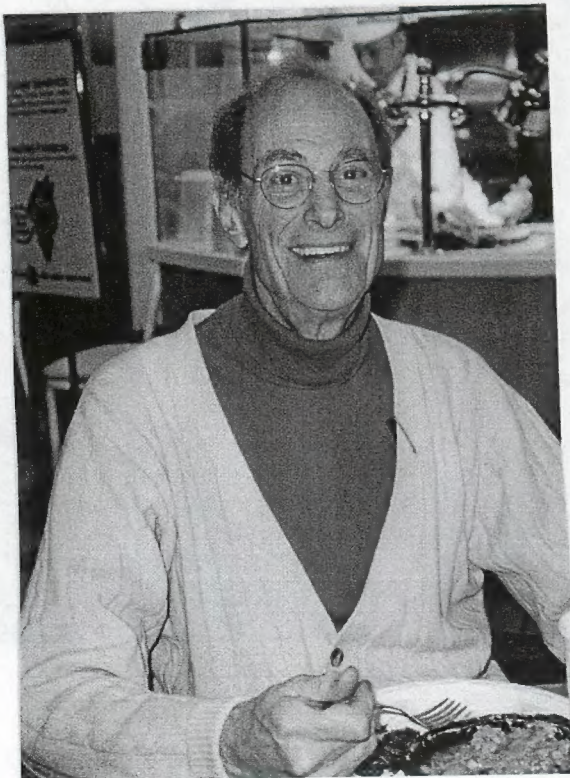
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